



**Amended Agenda
Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Coordinating Committee
Friday March 12, 2010 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
Boards and Commissions Room
City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street,
Austin, Texas**

1. Citizen Communications
2. Approve Record of Decisions for the November 23, 2009 meeting.
3. Advisory Committee Task Group report - Secretary
4. Receive Law Enforcement Briefings from Travis County and City of Austin Staffs
5. Receive reports on the status of BCCP Public Participation and Infrastructure Mitigation Processes by Travis Co, City of Austin, and BCCP Secretary
6. Report from Scientific Advisory Committee by David Steed, Chair
7. Report from Citizens Advisory Committee by Chair Joe Lessard
8. Receive Land Management Updates from BCCP Partners Staffs
9. Land Acquisition and Section 6 Grant Update report from Travis County Staff

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DANA DEBEAUVOIR
COUNTY CLERK
TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

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Coordinating Committee
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3. BCCP Audit Report – Secretary and AWU Internal Audit Team
4. Advisory Committee Task Group report - Secretary
5. Receive Law Enforcement Briefings from Travis County and City of Austin Staffs
6. Receive reports on the status of BCCP Public Participation and Infrastructure Mitigation Processes by Travis Co, City of Austin, and BCCP Secretary
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8. Report from Citizens Advisory Committee by Chair Joe Lessard
9. Receive Land Management Updates from BCCP Partners Staffs
10. Land Acquisition and Section 6 Grant Update report from Travis County Staff



Came to hand and posted on a Bulletin Board in the Courthouse
Austin, Travis County, Texas on this the 9th day of
March 20 10

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

By *Casey Holm* Deputy
CASEY HOLM

BCCP COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Citizen Communication

Please Sign In To Speak

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Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Coordinating Committee
Wednesday November 23, 2009 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Travis County Commissioners' Courtroom
314 W. 11th Street, 1st Floor
Austin, Texas**

Call to Order 10:00 AM

Attending:

Mayor Lee Leffingwell, Chair
Commissioner Karen Huber, Member
Mr. Adam Zerrenner, Member (Ex Officio)

1. **Citizen Communications** – None presented.
2. **Approve Record of Decisions for the February 18, 2009 meeting and the 8/24/09 meeting** - Both Records of Decision approved on a motion from Commissioner Huber with a second from Mayor Leffingwell, carried 2/0.
3. **Receive a Trail Master Plan Proposal for Turkey Creek Trail and take action – presented by the Secretary and Friends of Turkey Creek** – Commissioner Huber moved approval, second by Mayor Leffingwell, carried 2/0 with the following conditions:
 - a. A restoration plan and education plan acceptable to the BCP staff and Scientific Advisory Committee to be completed before submission to US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - b. Any substantive changes occur to the Trail Master Plan, it should be brought back to the Coordinating Committee for approval.
4. **Receive Law Enforcement Briefings from Travis County and City of Austin Staffs** – Reports were provided by Ron Phillips from Travis County Rangers and Scott Rowing from City of Austin BCP. Mayor Leffingwell asked whether public access trails on private mitigation lands near Canyon Creek subdivision affect their ability to count towards the BCCP regional habitat mitigation goal. He also asked whether other private mitigation committed to the regional habitat goal was in compliance. He asked US Fish and Wildlife Service to report on this to the Coordinating Committee.
5. **Receive reports on the status of BCCP Public Participation and Infrastructure Mitigation Processes by Travis Co, City of Austin, and BCCP Secretary** – Jenifer Brown provided a report to the committee.

6. **Report from Scientific Advisory Committee** – a report was presented by David Steed, Chair
7. **Report from Citizens Advisory Committee** – A report was presented by Robert Kleeman, Vice Chair. He reviewed a resolution approved by the CAC and SAC commending Sam Hamilton on his appointment as Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Coordinating Committee members Leffingwell and Huber agreed to forward the letter to Mr. Hamilton under their signatures.
8. **Receive Land Management Updates from BCCP Partners Staffs** – A written report was presented and reviewed by Scott Rowin for City of Austin BCP. Jennifer Brown gave a verbal report on Travis County BCP accomplishments.
9. **Land Acquisition and Section 6 Grant Update report from Travis County Staff** – Jenifer Brown Gave a report on behalf of Travis County.

Adjourn at 11:35



MEMORANDUM

To: Lee Leffingwell, City of Austin Mayor
Karen Huber, Travis County Commissioner
Adam Zerrenner, US Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office Supervisor

From: William Conrad, BCCP Secretary

Date: February 19, 2010

Subject: **Status of SAC and CAC Committee Membership**

Earlier this week, I requested that the Scientific Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee members report their interest in continuing to serve on their respective committees. All of the current members of the Citizens Advisory Committee confirmed their interest in continuing to serve. All of the Scientific Advisory Committee members would also like to continue serving with the exception of Vice Chair Clif Ladd, who would like to respectfully step down.

Sincerely,

[Signature on File]

William Conrad
BCCP Secretary
Wildland Conservation Division Manager
Austin Water Utility

CC: BCCP Scientific Advisory Committee
BCCP Citizens Advisory Committee



**BCCP Coordinating Committee
Advisory Committee Task Group
Recommendations
February 19, 2010**

Attending:

Rose Farmer
Scott Rowin
Clif Ladd
Willy Conrad

Linda Laack
Rusty Ray
Joe Lessard

General Recommendations:

1. BCCP Secretary should poll current members of the advisory committees to ascertain their interest to continue to serve in the current rolls.
2. Each advisory committee should re-elect officers annually.
3. This task group should develop a list of organizations within our community from which to solicit nominations for new or replacement members.

Scientific Advisory Committee:

1. Reorganize the current committee structure
2. Set membership at seven members to represent more diverse interests and make achieving a quorum more reliable.
3. Move away from the current Executive Committee/resource member structure:
 - a. A seven member committee
 - b. Establish subcommittees and/or task groups as prescribed under Roberts Rules of Order.
 - c. Solicit members for subcommittee/task group members from the broadest scientific community
4. New guidelines for the Scientific Advisory Committee were proposed (attached).
5. The concept of allowing member's to appoint proxies was discussed with no consensus reached.

Citizens Advisory Committee:

1. Review status of Consensus appointees:
 - a. Joe Lessard was originally appointed because of his interests in the development community. He is no longer associated with those interests.

- b. Are recreation and neighborhood interests adequately represented.
 2. Travis County and City of Austin are at the discretion of those governing bodies or their delegated (CC members).
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**Proposed Guidelines
Scientific Advisory Committee
January 27, 2010**

1. Purpose. The Scientific Advisory Committee will advise the Coordinating Committee and City and County BCCP staff on scientific matters related to:
 - a. Permit compliance;
 - b. Preserve, habitat, and species management;
 - c. Research;
 - d. Scientific and technical support for the public message about the BCCP; and
 - e. Special issues as requested by the Coordinating Committee or BCCP staff.

The Scientific Advisory Committee may provide advice and guidance on such matters at any time, and is not limited to requests from the Coordinating Committee or BCCP staff, but may offer its expertise at its own initiative.

2. Organization. The committee will include seven (7) members. They will be selected to provide a balance between the following disciplines:
 - Conservation ecology;
 - Ornithology, with experience specific to the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo;
 - Karst invertebrates;
 - Botany and plant ecology; and
 - Landscape ecology

The Scientific Advisory Committee may identify additional scientific expertise desired by the committee and may recruit appropriate expertise to support task groups or subcommittees, as needed. Additional expertise may be added by the Scientific Advisory Committee in any area, including but not limited to the following:

- Watershed management;
- Invasive species management;
- Experimental design;
- Statistics;
- Recreation ecology;
- Long-term habitat sustainability; and
- Population ecology

3. Guidelines
 - a. The Scientific Advisory Committee shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.
 - b. The Committee shall elect officers from within.
 - c. Meetings will occur approximately quarterly or when issues are presented by the Coordinating Committee, by Scientific Advisory Committee members, by the scientific community, or by the Citizens Advisory Committee.
 - d. Report to the Coordinating Committee approximately quarterly, or as needed.
 - e. The Chair or their designee shall attend all Coordinating Committee meetings, and shall provide a report to every meeting of the Coordinating Committee.
 - f. The Scientific Advisory Committee will direct issues to task groups, supplemented by additional expertise from outside the Committee, as it deems necessary.
 - g. Committee members will serve for periods as approved by the Coordinating Committee

**BCCP Guidelines for the
Citizens Advisory Committee**
March 3, 2003

1. Charge

- Advise CC on financing acquisition and management
- Advise CC on how to achieve public support and awareness
- Assess implementation of organization/structure/roles and provide accountability
- Provide a forum for public input
- Advise CC on how to meet the permit obligations

2. Organization – 11 members

- a. 3 appointments from City of Austin
- b. 3 appointments from Travis County
- c. 1 appointment from LCRA
- d. 4 consensus appointments from Coordinating Committee representing:
 - i. Development interests
 - ii. Environmental interests
 - iii. Neighbors or homeowners associations
 - iv. Recreation interests

3. Guidelines

- a. Meet at least quarterly
- b. Develop bylaws, and conflict of interest policy
- c. Elect officers from within committee
- d. Meet prior to Coordinating Committee in order to report to the Coordinating Committee
- e. Provide a quarterly report to the coordinating committee
- f. The chair or its designee will attend all Coordinating Committee meetings
- g. The Citizens advisory Committee will seek public input for its recommendations prior to submission to the Coordinating Committee
- h. Written annual report to be included in BCCP annual report
- i. Attendance requirement
 - i. Allow 2 unexcused absence per term
 - ii. Chair may excuse absences
 - iii. 3rd absence member is automatically removed from committee and Coordinating Committee, managing partner, or permit holder will appoint replacement
 - iv. May request lenience for 3rd unexcused absence
- j. 2 year terms
 - i. Staggered terms to assure continuity
 - ii. No term limits
 - iii. First round of appointments
 - 1. ½ = 1 year terms
 - 2. ½ = 2 year terms
 - 3. every 2 years thereafter
- k. Vacancies filled by original appointing authority
- l. No proxies

Bylaws
Citizens Advisory Committee
DRAFT 2/17/04

1. Officers shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected for one year terms at the first Committee meeting of the calendar year. The BCCP Secretary or his designee will serve as secretary for the Committee.
 2. The Chair shall call the meeting to order with a quorum of members present. A quorum is defined as a majority of the Committee appointments that are actually filled.
 3. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order except as amended by these Bylaws and except as the Chair may determine to run the meeting efficiently.
 4. Agendas for Committee meetings will go to members at least one week prior to any meeting and will include adequate supporting documentation and other information so members may be prepared for actions during meetings.
 5. Committee members will provide courtesy copies of correspondence relating to the Committee's business to the secretary. The secretary will maintain files for the Committee.
 6. The Committee will strive to reach consensus on its recommendations. When consensus is unattainable the Committee will make its recommendations on the basis of a majority vote of the quorum. The secretary will record the vote, the recommendation and the rationale for it, as well as the dissenting views.
 7. When a member of the Committee has a conflict of interest in an issue, the member shall disclose that conflict to the Committee.
 8. Bylaws may be amended by a Super-majority vote of two-thirds of the Committee appointments that are actually filled.
 9. Citizen communication should not exceed 5 minutes per speaker exclusive of time consumed by questions from Committee members. Committee members may by majority vote extend the time limit for citizen communication.
 10. The "BCCP Guidelines for the Citizens Advisory Committee" document approved by the BCCP Coordinating Committee and dated March 3, 2003 is incorporated by reference into these Bylaws.
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Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Scientific Advisory Committee
February 25, 2010, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Reicher Ranch Cana house
3621 South Ranch Road 620
Austin, Texas 78738**

Attending:

David Steed

Nico Hauwert

Excused:

Clif Ladd

John Cornelius

Steve Windhager

Because there was no quorum Chair Steed convened the meeting as a Committee of the Whole as provided for in Robert's Rules of Order. All actions of this Committee of the Whole must be ratified by a quorum of the Scientific Advisory Committee at their next regular meeting.

1. **Review and approve minutes from 11/12/09** - Approved with edits on a motion from Hauwert and Second from Steed. Carried 2/0
2. **Advisory Committee Task group recommendations** – Willy Conrad presented a written and verbal report. No action taken
3. **Subcommittee reports**
 - a. **Monitoring** – No report given
 - b. **Mountain Bike Experimental Design** – no report given
4. **COA BCP 5 Year Prescribed Burning Plan** – Scott Rowin presented a written and verbal report. No action taken
5. **Staff Updates** – Scott Rowin and Rose Farmer presented verbal reports. No action taken.
6. **Members Issues and Concerns** – None presented.



Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
March 8, 2010 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Waller Creek Center Room 104
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

Attending:

Joe Lessard
Liz Murray
Sarah Faust
Scott Sheppard
Ken Beck

Robert Kleeman
Peter Torgrimson
Marry Ann Neely
Sarah Marler

Excused:

Valerie Bristol

Ken Mills

1. **Citizen Communication** – None presented
2. **BCP Partner Reports**
 - a. **City of Austin BCP** – Scott Rowin provided a written and verbal report
 - b. **Travis County BCP** – Rose Farmer and Jenifer Brown provided a verbal report
 - c. **LCRA BCP** – Rusty Ray provided a verbal report
3. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. **Sustainability Committee** – Mary Ann Neely reported no action since the last meeting
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Approve Minutes from 11/17/09** Approved on a motion from Kleeman with a second from Beck. Carried 9/0
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Election of Officers** - Joe Lessard was elected Chair on a motion from Neely with a second from Kleeman. Carried 8/0/1 abstained. Peter Torgrimson was elected Vice-Chair with a Motion from Marler and second from Neely. Carried 8/0/1 abstained
 - b. **Advisory Committee Task Group report** – Willy Conrad presented a written and verbal report from the Task Group
 - c. **2010 work plan** – Chair Lessard gave a brief overview of the existing work plan. He will forward the existing plan to members. He asked members to consider what was planned and accomplished

and to consider what they wish to continue or initiate this year. Members are asked to submit comments and edits via email. These will be used to revise the plan via email collaboration and the plan will be presented at the next regular meeting for consideration and approval by the committee.

City of Austin BCP Projects
Coordinating Committee Meeting
March 12, 2010

Program Administration

1) Annual BCP Report to USFWS

- COA report provided to Travis County
- Travis County submitted final BCP report to USFWS

2) Other Annual Reports

- Migratory bird collection (USFWS)
- Banding (USGS)
- Scientific Collection (USFWS and TPWD)

3) Miscellaneous

- Hosted several field outings for VIPs
 - USFWS GCWA habitat modeler
 - Fort Hood BCVI habitat
 - BCP tour for Director of Pro Natura (Chiapas , Mexico) and Director of International affairs of Audubon Society

Preserve Management and Monitoring

1) Animal Control

- Feral hog control
 - Wildlife Services has removed 86 pigs from Bull Creek watershed since June 2009
 - COA has removed 28 hogs since March 2009. This is in addition to the 86 WS has removed.
- WTD control has ended on COA BCP lands
 - 64 deer harvested
 - All meat donated to local food banks
- Brown-headed Cowbird control
 - Will begin in March
 - Have acquired decoy birds

2) Biological Management and Monitoring

Karst

- Contract with Weston and Zara Environmental for karst species database update and surveys
 - Phase two (100 cave biological surveys) has begun in high priority caves
 - Focus is on the three rarest species.
- COA conducted regular (quarterly) karst species surveys.
- BCP karst GIS database
 - Database substantially complete (few private cave locations questionable)
 - Analysis of protection levels (entrance, footprint, surface and subsurface drainage, cave cricket foraging area, etc) on hold until cave location issues resolved.
- Texas State University contract to analyze 12 years of karst data
 - COA 12 years of data, Travis County 4-5 years of data to be analyzed. Meeting scheduled for April 1st to transfer data to TSU. Analysis and recommendations should be complete in 6 months.
 - Will use analysis to make recommendations on modifications to monitoring protocol

Golden-Cheeked Warbler

- Preparing for upcoming nesting season for GCWA
 - Will continue same protocols as last year.
 - Amended banding permit to be a BCP station permit. All staff now permitted to band.
 - Hired 3 temporary biologists to assist with banding

- 2.5 months of intensive training with staff on extracting and banding non-endangered bird species. Over 500 birds extracted.
- Recruited and trained 10 volunteers to assist with our 100-acre monitoring (dispersal of banded birds)
- Will work with Travis County to band GCWAs on a 100-acre monitoring plot
- Baylor University historical photo analysis, species composition change, and dendrochronology
 - Photo analysis and species composition change currently underway. Should be completed within 6 months.
 - Dendrochronology study recently funded.
- Golden-cheeked warbler monitoring workshop
 - Hosted workshop on February 24th.
 - Specific to BCP GCWA monitoring. Brought together approximately 40 BCP partners/researchers to discuss all the various types of monitoring that have occurred over the past couple years. Also, focused on various types of species/habitat modeling.
 - Will help us evaluate each methods utility, usefulness, and accuracy to assist in make modifications to our monitoring protocols.
 - Follow-up decision making meeting in July.
- Continued to participate in Golden-cheeked warbler recovery team, and status review team
 - Staff submitted comments on the draft GCWA status review to Texas A&M
 - Staff drafted GCWA recovery criteria for Recovery Plan

Black-capped Vireo - Fire (Wildfire and Prescribed burns)

- Prescribed Fire completed at Vireo Research Area
 - Part of our BCVI restoration plan
 - 7-acre pilot burn.
 - Currently working on specifications to do mechanical thinning over a more extensive area that would then be followed-up with another prescribed burn.
- Prepared several sites at Cortana in anticipation of a prescribed fire but were unable to complete it this year. Will try again after breeding season.
- 5-year prescribed burn management plan for COA BCP finalized

Jollyville Plateau Salamander

- COA has agreed to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance for the JPS
- Continue our regular monitoring for JPS

Oak Wilt

- Currently working on next round of specification for oak wilt trenches
- Currently working on Alamo treatment for existing oak wilt site at Reicher offices

3) Miscellaneous BCP Projects

- COA has agree to purchase the 14-acre Barton Creek Ventures track within Barton Creek Wilderness
- New fence construction
 - 23,500 linear feet at Ivanhoe, Coldwater, Vaught Ranch substantially complete
 - Currently working on next round of fences (JJ&T, Vireo Research Area, and City Park Rd.)

GCWA Nesting Chronology Video

**Travis County BCP Projects
BCCP Coordinating Committee Quarterly Report
March 12, 2010**

Land Acquisition

1) Acquisition Efforts:

- Acquired 827 ac. Volente tract – Dec. 2009
- Acquired 17 ac. Richards tract – Jan. 2010
- New Life/Blizzard tract 260 ac. acquisition pending – closing before June 2010
- Continuing negotiations on more than 1000 ac.
- Expecting announcement regarding FY10 Federal Sec. 6 Grant award

BCCP Administration

2) Annual BCCP Report to USFWS

- TC staff completed TC chapters of BCCP Annual Report documents
- TC compiled all BCP partner documents and submitted to USFWS on Jan. 29, 2010. Distributing CD copies and working with COA to post on website

3) Staffing

- Filled 2 vacant staff positions - Natural Resource Specialist and Environmental Resource Management Specialist (ERMS)
- Revised job duties for ERMS position to supervise Preserve field staff
- Hired Mickey Leland Intern for 6 mon. part time work

4) BCCP Administration

- Processed 5 BCCP Participation Applications and issued 5 Participation Certificates for a total of \$40,650 to be split between COA and TC for FY10

5) Infrastructure Management

- Coordinated with COA/Contractors for Water Treatment Plant #4 Forest Ridge Transmission Main that will pass through Ribelin tract including geotech bores and planning work, road improvements, and shaft location issues related to discovery of Oxalis Cave
- Coordinated with PEC on access issues on powerline north of WTP4 site related to planned replacement of transmission poles and proposal to do bores in sensitive karst area for geotech work

Volunteer/Education/Outreach Program

- 1) Volunteers provided 526 hours of service since beginning of FY10
- 2) Set up program for Spring 2010 with American Youth Works (AYW) to host 2 people to do 8 weeks/1 day per week of volunteer work on the preserve
- 3) In FY10 staff and volunteers provided educational programs to more than 800 people in school groups, neighborhood associations, and boy scout troops
- 4) Tours –
 - Hosted Fort Hood staff for BCVI habitat tour
 - Hosted tour for Travis County Human Resources staff
 - Hosted tour for Commissioner Huber's staff

Preserve Management and Monitoring

1) Biological Monitoring

- **Golden-cheeked warbler**
 - Assisted with GCWA Monitoring Workshop along with COA staff
 - Preparing for upcoming survey season including selection of survey sites for Spring 2010, staffing assignments, marking known points, preparing survey routes, preparing survey maps
 - Coordinating with City of Austin staff assisting us to do GCWA banding on one county 100 ac. survey plot
 - Trained staff on improved GPS monitoring techniques
- **Black-capped vireo**
 - Preparing for upcoming survey season including presence absence survey locations
 - Mechanically manipulated 10 ac. of new BCVI habitat on Ribelin tract. Conducted clean-up with AYW hand crews on about 10 ac. of BCVI habitat on Jollyville Unit
 - Drafting long-range restoration plan for BCVI habitat
- **Jollyville Plateau Salamander**
 - Surveyed SAS spring, McDonald Well spring, and SAS cave spring in Nov. and in March
- **Karst**
 - Regular Quarterly Karst Surveys - contracted with Hicks and Company to conduct karst surveys in our endangered species caves in Dec. and March
 - Coordinated with COA on contract with Zara Environmental to do some cave surveys on TC land
 - Contributed information to master BCP Karst GIS database with COA staff

3) Animal Control

- **Deer and feral hog**
 - Contracted with Orion to conduct deer and hog feral hog removal on BCP land. Orion removed 55 deer and 5 hogs. Park Rangers removed 62 deer from Pace Bend Park with BCP staff assistance
 - All deer meat donated to Caritas to feed homeless
 - Coordinated with COA to host Texas Agrilife (Wildlife Extension Services) to remove the 86 hogs from Bull Creek watershed since June 2009 (some on Travis County preserve land)
- **Brown-headed cowbird controls**
 - Will begin in March
- **Red Imported Fire Ants**
 - Used Power Spray Rig to remove RIFA around endangered species caves

Land Stewardship Projects

- 1) **New Fence Construction** - 10,824 linear feet of new fencing on Lucas, Chandler, Cuevas, Mirtsching, and Steiner Ranch tracts and preparing to do additional fencing on Volente and Woody Hollow tracts
- 2) **Wild Basin Preserve** - Coordinating with WB staff on habitat improvement projects
- 3) **Concordia Preserve tract** - Coordinating with Concordia University on preserve access policy for students and faculty